

consultation with the Department of Revenue. Exports, however, have not been affected as exports have been permitted under the Scheme pending the finalisation of the Entitlement Rate.

Handloom Industry

*590. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Handloom Industry is facing serious challenges from powerloom sector, and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken to assist the handloom industry to meet the challenges from the other sectors ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) The Handloom Industry is facing competition from the Powerloom sector. The Government of India has taken following steps to assist the handloom industry :-

1. Eleven Textile articles have been reserved for exclusive production on handlooms.
2. State Government and other implementing agencies have been directed to implement the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 from time to time.
3. The Scheme for Central Assistance to the States/UTs for setting up of Enforcement Machinery in the States/UTs is in operation since 1986.
4. Central Enforcement Machinery with its Head Quarters at Delhi and three Regional Enforcement Offices at Calcutta, Chennai and Ahmedabad has been set up.
5. Under various Handloom Schemes, assistance is provided for supply of inputs, modernisation of looms training, welfare, research & development and marketing etc.

Investment in Public Sector Units

*591. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the capital investment in the public sector industrial units to improve their conditions;

(b) if so, the amount of capital investment made in these industries during the first year of the Eighth Plan;

(c) the estimated amount of capital investment made in the last year of the Plan;

(d) the amount raised as loan through foreign and domestic sources separately;

(e) the amount paid by these industries as interest on the amount raised as loans; and

(f) the total capital investment involved in these units and the percentage it constitute of the total capital investment involved in public sector ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The amount of fresh investment made in 165 such Central Public Sector Units during 1992-93 (1st year of 8th Plan) was Rs. 10715.50 crores and during 1995-96 (4th year of 8th Plan) upto which period only information is available was Rs. 2234.47 crores.

(d) The loans raised by industrial units in the Central PSUs through foreign and domestic sources as on 31.3.1996 was Rs. 25827.97 crores and Rs. 47720.35 crores respectively.

(e) The amount of interest paid by industrial PSEs towards foreign and domestic loans during 1995-96 is given as under :-

(Rs. in Crores)	
Interest on Loan	1995-96
From foreign parties	2003.08
From domestic sources	8867.89

(f) As on 31.3.1996, the total capital investment in 165 industrial PSEs was Rs. 122776.17 crores which constitute 68.7% of the total investment of Rs. 178627.71 crores made in 243 Central PSEs.

Trade Deficit

*592. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether country's trade deficit for the current year has crossed \$ 5 billion mark;

(b) whether imports during February, 1997 have grown substantially;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the trade deficit is likely to cross \$6

billion mark by the year end; and

(e) if so, the steps the Government, contemplate to remove the deficit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Sir, As per the latest available information regarding trade data from DGCI&S, the trade deficit for April-March 1996-97 (Prov.) is placed at US \$5.44 billion.

(b) and (c) As per DGCI&S data imports during February 1997 were valued at US \$ 3551 million while imports during February 1996 were valued at US \$2799 million. This represents a growth of 26.9%.

(d) and (e) No Sir. The trade deficit as per DGCI&S data for April-March 1996-97 (Prov.) is placed at US\$ 5.44 billion.

The key to reducing trade deficit lies in accelerated export growth. Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes. These include simplification of Export Import Policy and procedures for providing an export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion and interaction with industry, trade and other export promotional institutions for initiation of appropriate measures from time to time.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

*593. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds being allocated to KVIC by the Government annually;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the grants to KVIC;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission generate more jobs in rural areas of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken to encourage Khadi and Village Industries in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The Government has provided the funds (Plan and Non-Plan) including the grants to Khadi and Village Industries Commission from year to year. The details of the funds released for the last four years and for the year 1997-98 are as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Plan	20800	21600	33700	30820	34999
Non-Plan	32564	34100	32300	30910	31316
Total	53364	55700	66000	61730	66315

The funds are being allocated annually depending upon the proposals and the programmes submitted by the KVIC after the Annual Plan exercise. Over the years, Government is providing more and more grants to the KVIC for various KVIC programmes.

(d) and (e) Khadi and Village Industries Commission is the implementing agency for Khadi and Village Industry activities. KVIC have unique capacity to generate large employment in the rural areas at the lower capital cost per employment as compared to the other sectors responsible for creation of Jobs. It has been estimated that while in the major industries creation of one job required Rs. 10 lakhs, Rs. 3 lakhs in SSI, Rs. 42,000 in Khadi and less than Rs. 26,000 in the Village Industries. The KVIC has provided employment to the order of 60.22 lakhs (provisional) people in 1996-97 and has generated additional employment of about 3 lakhs in the year 1996-97.

(f) Based on the recommendations of the High Power Committee (HPC) on KVI Sector, KVIC has been implementing since 1995-96 a Rural Employment General Programme (REGP). The major constituents of this programme are (i) 125 Block Development Programme; (ii) District Special Employment Programme; (iii) National Programme on Leather, Handmade Paper, Beekeeping and Pottery; (iv) Special Projects in thrust areas; (v) Strengthening normal Village Industries Programme; and (vi) Extension of Khadi Programme.

In addition to this, Government has arranged for Khadi and Village Industries Commission a line of Bank credit of Rs. 1000 crores through a Consortium of Banks headed by State Bank of India.

Solar PV Pumps

*594. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any review on the progress made in generation and utilisation of solar energy during 8th plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; Statewise;